

have reached the same conclusion. The tenth circuit explained in *Gaylor v. United States* that the national motto "through historical usage and ubiquity cannot be reasonably understood to convey government approval of religious belief." In cases such as *Lynch v. Donnelly*, the Supreme Court has indicated its approval of these rulings. Even Justice William Brennan, one of the most liberal Supreme Court Justices of the modern era and one of the most strident advocates for the separation of church and state, even indicated his support for this view, saying that Americans have "simply interwoven the motto so deeply into the fabric of our civil polity" as to eliminate constitutional problems.

The same reasoning applies to Breen Elementary's use of "God Bless America." Both of these phrases show the important role that religion plays in America, but they are not an establishment of religion or endorsement of religious belief.

It is also significant that even when the Supreme Court ruled that organized prayer in public schools was unconstitutional in *Engel v. Vitale*, it made it clear that the case did not apply to patriotic or ceremonial anthems that refer to God. While I have always viewed this case as misguided, and have for years introduced a constitutional amendment to reverse it, even this case supports Breen Elementary School.

The fact is that religion is central to our culture and our patriotic identity as a nation. As the Supreme Court said in *Lynch v. Donnelly*, there is an "unbroken history of official acknowledgment by all three branches of government of the role of religion in American life."

This is not something we should ignore or hide. I have never understood why some have desperately tried to remove any acknowledgment of religion from American life.

Just the opposite should be the case. It is only fitting that we would turn to these expressions in times of great difficulty.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the patriotism displayed in Rocklin, California. Throughout the history of this great Nation, we have invoked the blessings of God without establishing religion. From prayers before legislative assembly meetings and invocations before college football games to the national motto embedded on our currency, our Constitution has allowed references to God. During this time of national tragedy and recovery, we should not allow extreme interpretations of the Constitution to dampen our patriotism and resolve.

This is an important matter that deserves our attention during these difficult times. A resolution very similar to this one has been introduced in the House by my friend, Representative HENRY BROWN. We should support Breen Elementary School and others like it as they personify the spirit of America.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will conduct a business meeting on October 18, 2001, in SR-328A at 11 a.m. The purpose of this business meeting will be to discuss the new Federal farm bill.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Dr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, to conduct a hearing on "The Failure of Superior Bank, FSB, Hinsdale, Illinois."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing to review the Federal Emergency Management Agency's response to the September 11, 2001, attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. The hearing will be held in SD-406.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, following the first vote of the day for a business meeting to consider pending committee business, including the nomination of Mark Everson, to be Controller, Office of Federal and Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at 3 p.m.

Agenda: Markup of S. 1379, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Rare Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; S. 727, a bill to provide grants for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training in public schools; H.R. 717, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research and services with respect to Duchenne muscular dystrophy; an original bill dealing with mental

health and terrorism; and the nomination of Jean Scalia to be Solicitor General of the Department of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Thomas M. Sullivan to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the U.S. Small Business Administration on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, beginning at 10:15 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, for a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs' Fourth Mission: Caring for Veterans, Servicemembers, and the Public Following Conflicts and Crises. The meeting will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Communications of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at 10 a.m., on Emergency 911.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at 2 p.m., in closed session to receive testimony on security of Department of Defense ammunition shipments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Youth Violence be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at 10:30 a.m., in Dirksen 226.

"Defending America's Transportation Infrastructure" panel: The Honorable Mike Parker, Assistant Secretary for the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, Washington, DC; Brian M. Jenkins, Senior Advisory to the President, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA; Donald E. Brown, Chair of the Department of Systems Engineering, University of Virginia,